

God's greatest blessings are the children! What an awesome privilege to be in their midst each Sunday and listen to their special stories. I would like to share a touching "God moment" from one of our members. It is always humbling to witness God working through our children... reminding us of how He comes to us in our deepest need, comforting us when we put our trust in Him.

*"One night Ainsley woke up crying from a nightmare so I went in to comfort her. In her sleepy four year old voice she explained that she had a bad dream and could not stop thinking about it. She asked me to grab her cross we made from Palm Sunday and to help her pray to God for comfort because there wasn't anything else that was going to make her feel better. So at about 3:00 am Ainsley and I held hands and prayed for comfort. Before we got to Amen she was asleep again. She was so happy that her idea had worked that she couldn't wait to get to Sunday School that morning to give thanks. The few hours a week we spend at Wesley spark conversations all week long and occasionally even comfort us at the most unexpected times. Thank you to all the leaders that work so gently and lovingly to foster such positive spiritual growth in our children." Angela Quitadamo*

Truly powerful to think about how not only did Ainsley recognize answered prayer, but she inspires us with her excitement to give thanks. She continues to encourage us as she comes to Sunday school with a heart full of wonder and thankfulness. We give thanks! The Sunday School leaders and I are blessed by the children in our midst and continue to pray for each and every one, as well as those whom God will send us. It is sad to imagine children growing up without knowing the comfort of a loving God... and so we keep praying!

And in the spirit of celebrating prayer and giving thanks, I share a  
Thanksgiving Prayer with you...

"Lord, as I sit down to a Thanksgiving table once again, I want to thank you for your goodness to me. Thank you for meeting my needs every day – for food and shelter and clothing. And for the many extras you provide that I so often take for granted. Thank you for the family and friends who make my life complete. Thank you that even when we are miles apart, we are bound by the cords of your love. And I thank you that I am free to worship you and to read your Word. Most of all, I thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who is "the light of the world." When I turned to Him, He flooded the darkness of my soul with the light of your love. Thank you that He not only died for my sins, but that He is alive today at your side... hearing my prayers and preparing a home for me in heaven. Thank you that He came into this world and took up residence in my life as Savior, Lord and God. Thank you for all that you have given me as a Christian; the Holy Spirit who is your presence in my life, the Bible that is a light to my pathway, Christian friends who encourage and help me. Thank you that I can face tomorrow with hope because Jesus loves me." Amen

*In the joy of prayerful thanksgiving, Valerie Jansson*

## PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

### *LET US PRAY FOR...*

- ✠ Helen Combes, Barbara Ingrassia's mother.
- ✠ Jack Pantanella, Susan Richards father.
- ✠ Drew, brother of Donna Hirtle.
- ✠ Donald McLaren recovering from surgery.
- ✠ A family friend's father having surgery, from The Arsenault's.
- ✠ Of Thanksgiving for our mission team who are back home safely.
- ✠ The thousands of people still waiting for homes to be rebuilt for them in the 9th ward and throughout Louisiana.

### *OUR SYMPATHY TO...*

- ✠ Beverly Grimshaw on the death of her husband Bruce this past week.
- ✠ Tom & Barbara Ingrassia and family on the death of his father Andy.

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

**THE ROSE WINDOW** lighting for November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr. by Nancy, Beth, and Craig Duxbury.

**THE TOWER** lighting for November is given in loving memory of William & Mina Warman by Arline Benoit.

**THE SANCTUARY** altar flowers on November 22<sup>nd</sup> are given in loving memory of Ken and Rita Arslan by Gwen and Sam Purushotham and family.

**THE SANCTUARY** altar flowers on November 30<sup>th</sup> are given in loving memory of Ruth and Leon Felton.

**THE ROSE WINDOW** lighting for December is given in loving memory of Alice R. (Kokernak) Rand, Wesley B. Rand, Mildred A. Kokernak and Henri H. Kokernak by Henry Rand.

**THE TOWER** lighting for December is given in loving memory of Stanley England by The Wong Family.

**REMINDER... CHARGE CONFERENCE ~ DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 PM**

## 2009 HARVEST RESULTS AS OF 11/17/2009

Appeal for Funds	21,695.00	3,800.00	25,495.00
Service Auction	1,225.00	2,180.00	3,405.00
Silent Auction	3,583.50	165.00	3,748.50
<b>Kofi &amp; Ama</b>			
Sunday "The Winner"	299.00		
Monday	139.00		
Tuesday	244.70		
Wednesday	152.00		
Thursday	230.05		
Friday	263.40		
Saturday	227.20		
Total Kofi & Ama	1,555.35	0.00	1,555.35
Beyond Wesley	1495.00	0.00	1,495.00
Received in office	941.00	0.00	941.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,494.85</b>	<b>6,145.00</b>	<b>36,639.85</b>
<b>Mini Harvests</b>	<b>5617.25</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5617.25</b>
<b>Other Kofi &amp; Ama Offerings</b>	<b>1554.86</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1554.86</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Deposits</b>	<b>323.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>323.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>37,989.96</b>	<b>6,145.00</b>	<b>44,134.96</b>
<b>or PLEDGED THRU 11/17/09</b>			
<b>Less 10% Tithe</b>			<b>3,600.00</b>
<b>Account Balance</b>			<b>40,534.96</b>
<b>2009 Budget</b>			<b>36,000.00</b>
<b>Positive Difference from Budget</b>			<b>4,534.96</b>

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### BIBLE SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

Bible Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday before American Thanksgiving, was founded in 1915 by the American Bible Society. It's a celebration that focuses on the place of the Scriptures in our daily lives; it's also a time to support Bible distribution efforts all over the world. Each year on Bible Sunday, Wesley UMC presents our kindergarten children and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders with a Bible. The Bibles are purchased from an endowment given by Eleanor Kidwell for the sole purpose of providing our children with their own Bible. Please bring your Bible to church this Sunday, a Bible given to you by your church, a family Bible, or the Bible you use for your personal devotions. This is a good week to also take a look at the Massachusetts Bible Society webpage: [www.massbible.org](http://www.massbible.org). Rev. Anne Robertson, a United Methodist clergy person is the Executive Director. It is a great site with devotions, sermons, Bible quizzes, and much more. Take a look; you'll love it!

## **Just a Closer Walk?**

Are you yearning for a deeper experience of God?

Would you like to be part of a small group of people with whom you can share questions of faith?

## **Come walk with Companions in Christ**

- A 28-week journey in prayer, scripture, sharing, spiritual friendship, and meditation.
- A spiritual-formation group designed to deepen your spiritual growth.
- An invitation from God to come close.

For more information, contact: Sue Proulx at (508) 791-8873 or Sue Williams at (508) 795-7331 or see us in Brewer Hall on Sunday.

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Dear Folks of Wesley,

At Carty Cupboard's annual meeting Pastor Vicki and Pastor Shandi suggested we have a "Carty Cupboard Donate a Food Item Sunday" each month. It was decided that the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month would be the Sunday for each of us to bring in a non-perishable food item. We will start collecting on Sunday December the 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be baskets in the narthex for your donations. Prior to each Donation Sunday we will post the food item needed in the Herald and the Sunday News. The 1<sup>st</sup> food item we would like you to bring in on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December is a can of vegetables; this can be green or wax beans, carrots, peas, corn, or mixed vegetables, a regular 14 to 15oz. can is perfect.

The number of new clients that we are serving is rising by 20 families each week. In October we served 416 families and singles, and just last Friday we served 61 clients. This is a huge increase for us, and it is a big task to keep up with the demand for food, so this is why we need your help. As always we appreciate your kindness. Please think of Carty Cupboard when you shop. If every parishioner coming to Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month brings in at least 1 food item it will make a big difference in our mission to fight hunger!

Sincerely,

Nancy Spencer and the Carty Cupboard Volunteers

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Remember the Thanksgiving Bake Sale to be held this coming Sunday, November 22. Baked goods will be available for your holiday celebration. Proceeds will be donated to UMW missions.

The Mary and Martha Brunch was a huge success. Thanks to Lorraine Kronberg, Jan England, Judy Simoneau, and all the committee that planned and set up this event. Also, thanks to the men who helped serve the breakfast. There may be some aprons left; you will see them at the Bake Sale on Nov. 22.

The UMW Finance Committee will meet on Sunday, Nov. 29, after the 10:30 worship service (please note change in date). We will meet in the Mary Ellis Lounge to discuss our progress in fulfilling our pledge to Wesley for the current fiscal year.

The UMW Christmas Program will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. in Brewer Hall. The Trinity Brass will give us a Christmas Concert that evening. The program is open to all Wesley women. Dessert will be provided by the Rebecca Circle.

The Wesley United Methodist Church has agreed to host the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 5. There is much planning to do. If you would like to be involved in this event, please check with Margaret Watson to volunteer your services. Thank you.

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### THE SPIRITUAL WORK OF GRATITUDE

*by Henri Nouwen*

“To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, but to be grateful for all of our lives – the good as well as the bad, the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, the successes as well as the failures, the rewards as well as the rejections – that requires hard spiritual work. Still, we are only truly grateful people when we can say thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment. As long as we keep dividing our lives between the events and people we would like to remember and those we would rather forget, we cannot claim the fullness of our beings as a gift of God to be grateful for.”

Let’s not be afraid to look at everything that has brought us to where we now are and trust that we will soon see in it the guiding hand of a loving God.”

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

**UNICEF** Collection... Our Sunday school children collected \$40.65 - Great Job!

**Bible Sunday, November 22**, as we look forward to celebrating with our Kindergarten and Third grade Sunday School children, I asked some of the fifth and sixth graders to reflect on when they received their Bible...

*"It means a lot when you receive a Bible. You become stronger in faith. The Bible makes a big difference in your heart." Q. W.*

*"Receiving a Bible makes you feel like you are special because you always have a reference to go to. Something to make you feel good and responsible, you have helpful words and stories in one book. You feel good because you own your own book of Gods word that you can go to - to feel calmer or help you in situations that you feel the Bible could help you, because the Bible is yours to share! And it always will remind you that God loves you for who you are." B. P.*

*"Receiving a Bible meant many things. One thing it meant I opened another door to learning. Now I can read it and learn something new every time. Also, it makes people feel older and special to own one and able to read the verses and understand them. So, getting my Bible meant a lot to me." O. G.*

*"When I got my Bible it felt good. I was so happy to get my own. When I got home I started to read it and I started to read it every night and day. I read with my mom and Dad and my sister." J. S.*

*"Receiving the Bible means to me that I was given the Holy Book, remembrance of Jesus and the Holy times." M. K.*

*"When I received my Bible I felt good. And I knew that the Bible would change my family and my whole life. I promised that when ever I can I would read one verse. But right when I got my Bible and I was home I started to read it. And the Bible tells you what to believe, the Bible lets you imagine. After you read the Bible you will know mostly everything. And you and I will remember God, Jesus, the Bible, and everything and everyone in the Bible." G. A.*

**“A Joyful Noise”** – We would like to invite you to be part of our special children’s bell choir, led by Deanna Wong. We are meeting on the third floor, Wagner Hall, during Children’s Church time, 10:50 – 11:30 am. We are learning a special piece to be offered Sunday, December 20! All ages are welcome!

**Wesley’s Living Nativity...** Sunday, December 20, join us for our special children’s Christmas message, as our Saviors birth comes to life in the fullness of the scriptures. An experience you won’t want to miss as we bring the true meaning back into Christmas! Save the date and invite friends and family! You will also be hearing more of how you can get involved in our Advent mission project to support Heifer International.

~ Valerie Jansson

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**TIRED OR TOO BUSY TO BAKE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?** Let us do the baking for you! The MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) group will be taking orders December 13<sup>th</sup> for baked goods for your Christmas celebrations. Baked goods include cheesecakes (variety of flavors), apple pies, gingerbread men, breads, etc. We will also be selling "Carol-o-grams" from Jill Bailey - she will go to the house of your requesting (a friend, family member) and sing some holiday carols for them. Come place your orders before, during or after the church service on December 13th. Quantities are limited, so don't delay. Pick-up will be on Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> (before, during, after the service). If you have questions or wish to place an order directly, call Jean Grant at 508-886-6571.

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## **PLAY- LEARN-PRESCHOOL**

508-752-5520

### **NOW ENROLLING FOR 2010-2011**

Learning! Laughing! Singing! Dancing!

Solid curriculum building towards kindergarten readiness with assistance  
with social and emotional development

Loving and warm environment where caring comes naturally

We would enjoy talking with you!

Please call for an appointment to speak with us and to visit our  
program in action!

Miss Toni / Miss Judy

**THE YOUTH GROUP, YOUNG FAMILIES, AND YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP**  
groups are planning on having a joint fellowship and Christmas party on Sunday,  
December 13 after church at 12:00 noon.

## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS AIDS AFRICA**

On Saturday morning (November 14th) friends and members from Wesley UMC joined others to pack 550 caregivers kits to help make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering from aids. Through the Mission and Outreach Committee (and the Bessie Carty Good Samaritan Fund) support was given to help support this program of Central Mass Aids Africa.

The Ghanaian Choir was amazing as they provided song and praise as the kits were being packed. So many times we do not realize the blessings we have here at Wesley. Thanks to all who shared in this day.

## **INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE – NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

### **TEMPLE EMMANUEL, WORCESTER AT 5 PM**

“Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home...”. What a gift to come together as members of the Jewish, Islamic, Christian, Buddhist and Unitarian communities, to share in an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

All who wish to sing in the combined choir are asked to gather for rehearsal at 3 pm at Temple Emmanuel; and other participants in the service will gather at 4pm. The service will begin at 5pm.

Mr. Craig Standing Bear will play the flute, Mayor Konstantina Lukes will bring “A Thanksgiving Proclamation”, Rabbi Matthew Berger will offer the sermon. Other participants: Pastor Shandi Mawokomatanda (Wesley UMC), Rabbi Seth Bernstein (Temple Sinai), Rev. Thomas McKibbens (First Baptist), Rev. Aaron Payson (Unitarian Universalist), Rev. Tom Schade (First Unitarian), Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian (Armenian Church of our Savior), Rev. Heather Kattan (First Baptist), Rev. Mark Frykholm (Salem Covenant Church) Worcester Islamic Center, Mr. Jeffrey Bailey, and Rev. Dr. Gary Shahinian (Park Congregational Church). Matt Johnsen, Organist and Choir Director (Unitarian Universality Church) .



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSION BAKE SALE

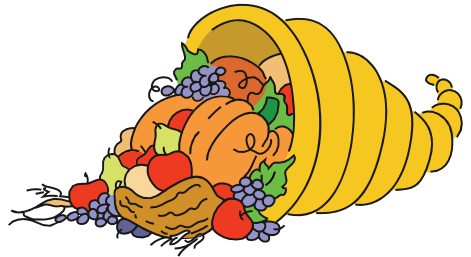
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008**

*To support the following UMW Mission Projects:*

*Heifer Project ++ Children's Haven  
Children's Friend \*\* Camperships*

**COOKIES    BREADS    PIES    CAKES... AND MORE!**

*Support the UMW in this  
Mission fund-raiser and enjoy  
"home-made" baked goods for  
your Thanksgiving Celebration*



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA'S...** I am now taking orders for the Christmas Poinsettia's for Christmas Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please be aware that all orders must be placed by December 6<sup>th</sup>, and payment must accompany the order form. The cost is \$11 each. If payment is not received, the order will not be placed. Order forms are included in this Herald and will be available on line as well. Questions? Please call Debi in the office at 508-799-4191.

## DID YOU KNOW?

This past Sunday the Wesley Ringers played a piece during worship entitled “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”. More accurately, what they played was a piece based on the tune “Azmon”, which is the tune to which Charles Wesley’s hymn text is set in *The United Methodist Hymnal*. Although two other hymns in the hymnal [“Jesus Thine All-Victorious Love” (UMH 422) and “This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now” (UMH 408)] are also set to the same tune, the great American composer Lowell Mason arranged this tune, originally written by Carl Gläser, specifically as a setting for this particular hymn text.

The text for “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” is a portion of a much longer poem which Charles Wesley (who is believed to have written as many as 6,500 hymn texts!) wrote in 1739 to commemorate the one year anniversary of his conversion experience on May 21, 1738, a few days before his brother John’s famous Aldersgate experience. He entitled the poem “For the anniversary day of one’s conversion”. The title of the hymn derives from the first line of stanza 1 of the hymn as it appears in our hymnal, but it is actually stanza 7 of the original poem. It is believed that Charles Wesley based this portion of the text on the words of Peter Böhler, a Moravian preacher who was influential in his conversion: “Had I a thousand tongues I would praise Him with them all.”

The poem was first published in 1780 in John Wesley’s *A Collection of Hymns for the People Called Methodists*. Since that time, this hymn has been the opening hymn in Methodist hymnals. (It is numbered “57” in our present hymnal, but it is still the first hymn in the book.) For United Methodists, it has become what Dean McIntyre of the General Board of Discipleship refers to as a denominational “signature hymn”—a hymn that has a “singularly unique association with that denomination -- theological, historical, biographical.” (*Music Musings* #215, September 25, 2009, [www.GBOD.org](http://www.GBOD.org)). If you would like to read and reflect on a longer version of Charles’ text, seventeen of the eighteen stanzas of the original text can be found in our hymnal as “Glory to God, and Praise, and Love” (UMH 58).

Submitted by,  
Deborah A. O’Driscoll

## 2009 HERALD SCHEDULE

Below are the next couple of Herald mailing dates along with the deadline dates for each mailing.

Please note that the deadline date is Monday at 9:00 AM unless otherwise specified.

<u>Article Deadline Date</u>	<u>Herald Mailing Date</u>
Mon., Nov. 30	Wed., Dec. 2
Mon., Dec. 14	Wed., Dec. 16

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:  
**office@wesleyworc.org**



**Welcome.** Below is a schedule and topics for the first couple of weeks.

### DECEMBER 4:

Infant CPR/Choking

### DECEMBER 18:

Mom's Ever-Changing Roles

If you are interested in joining our group or to just find out more, please contact Jean Grant at [grantgirl05@yahoo.com](mailto:grantgirl05@yahoo.com) or 508-886-6571 or Jill Bailey at [bluejillfish@gmail.com](mailto:bluejillfish@gmail.com) or 774-745-0294. We look forward to meeting you!



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## WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Pastors

Vicki Woods & Shandirai Mawokomatanda

### Director of Music Ministries

Brett Maguire

### Ghanaian Choir Master

Charles Ato Brown

### Music Assistant

Deborah O'Driscoll

### Sunday School Superintendent

Valerie Jansson

### Building Superintendent

Phil Johnson

### Business Administrator

Lorna Mattus-Merrill

### Church Secretary

Debi Ritacco

### Custodians

Mark & Carol Flionis and Gerard Piscitelli

### Assistant Custodian

Steve Boyns

### Administrative Council

Scott & Mary Beth Dziewietin

### Layleader

Deborah O'Driscoll

### Board of Trustees

Harry Spencer III

### Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

Nancy Spencer

### Education Work Area

Ann Openshaw

### Finance & Stewardship

Michael Edmunds

### Ghanaian Association

Joseph Wilson

### Lay Members Annual Conference

Mary Beth Dziewietin and Johnnell Demery

### Medical Ministry

Ron Ramsay

### Membership & Evangelism

Gary & Renelle Picard

### Memorial Gifts

Carolyn Bellil

### Mission Coordinator

Jerry Warren

Chris Flagg

### Music & Worship

### Staff-Parish Relations

Janet M. Maguire

### Youth Group

Phil & Emily Smith

**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
**114 Main Street**  
**Worcester, Massachusetts 01608**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**WESLEY HERALD**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

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